General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title ANTH/HS 140 Human Sexuality  
GE Area S

Results reported for AY 2012-2013  
# of sections: 9  
# of instructors: 4

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Department Chair: Chuck Darrah  
College: Social Sciences

Instructions: Each year, the department will prepare a brief (two page maximum) report that documents the assessment of the course during the year. This report will be electronically submitted, by the department chair, to the Office of Undergraduate Studies, with an electronic copy to the home college by September 1 of the following academic year.

Part 1

To be completed by the course coordinator:

(1) What SLO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

Student Learning Objective #4: After successfully completing the course, students shall be able to recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?

In all sections, students were given the opportunity to discuss and write about sexual/intimate relationships in different cultural, racial and ethnic groups. They were able to make personal connections to their own lives and reflect on the reactions of others to people who differ from themselves. In all sections, students expressed an increase in tolerance and this has enhanced their appreciation of understanding the importance of interacting with people different from oneself. Below are two examples.

In one of the classes, students are given a list of topics to write on that includes inter-racial and inter-ethnic marriages. The writing prompt asks whether inter-racial and inter-ethnic marriages are becoming more acceptable and asks the student to explain his or her response. It also includes questions regarding how one own family may react to this type of relationship and what nuances may change the reaction. Students are very interested in the topic of inter-racial marriage and write throughout full responses in regards to this prompt. Students’ interest may be intensified because we live in an ethnically diverse area. They are often surprised to learn about miscegenation laws and Loving vs. Virginia.

Another class has taken the opportunity to have guest speakers from the SJSU LGBTQ Resource Center attend the class and offer their personal stories about coming out, their diverse
gender/sexual identities, and the everyday, practical challenges they face by being “different” in a heteronormative world. Members of the panel also addressed specific issues of being Hispanic or Asian, as well as being “queer.” After each member of the panel speaks, the group takes questions from the class. The class had the opportunity to write their questions to the panel members and submit them anonymously or ask them directly; students chose to ask their questions directly, which allowed for the “constructive interaction” sought in LO #4. Students who did not ordinarily participate in class discussions asked questions of the panel members. In addition, LO #4 was assessed with a writing portfolio assignment, “My Course Evaluation.” While this topic was optional, about one-third of the class chose it for their final portfolio installment; their comments proved that this activity accomplishes LO #4, not only in facilitating constructive interactions, but also in accomplishing some degree of personal transformation in their own attitudes and actions.

(3) What modifications to the course, or its assessment activities or schedule, are planned for the upcoming year? (If no modifications are planned, the course coordinator should indicate this.)

No modifications are planned.

Part 2

To be completed by the department chair (with input from course coordinator as appropriate):

(4) Are all sections of the course still aligned with the area Goals, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Content, Support, and Assessment? If they are not, what actions are planned?

Yes (with reservations). GE coordinator Weiss meets with the instructors and the department integrates assessment discussions into regular faculty meetings. The course is an SJSU Studies one that is distinct to our university, but the pool of instructors who staff our sections is very experienced and they exhibit a high degree of ownership of the course. In the previous report (2011-2012) I was unable to certify that the sections were taught consistently and that they were aligned with course SLOs. This was due to my inability to obtain information from the two sections offered by an instructor in a cross-listing department. That cross-listing has been dropped effective fall 2013 and so the consistency problem should be resolved during the next academic year. No further actions are contemplated except that the 2013-2014 assessment will be initiated by the department chair since Prof. Weiss is on sabbatical.